

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A messaging client comprising:

5 a receive-routine for receiving an original message comprising original message text;

a reply-routine for receiving user input defining reply message text and for establishing a
reply message comprising the reply message text and only so much of the original message text
as will fit together with at least the reply message text in a maximum message capacity; and
a send-routine for sending the reply message.

10 2. The messaging client of claim 1, wherein the reply-routine receives the reply
message text and then inserts after the reply message text only so much of the original message
text as will fit together with at least the reply message text in the maximum message capacity.

15 3. The messaging client of claim 1, wherein the reply-routine concatenates at least
the reply message text and the original message text and then truncates a portion of the original
message text so that the reply message does not exceed the maximum message capacity.

20 4. The messaging client of claim 1, wherein the reply-routine determines whether a
threshold extent of the original message text fits within the maximum message capacity together
with at least the reply message text, and the reply-routine omits the original message text
altogether from the reply message in response to a determination that the threshold extent does
not fit within the maximum message capacity together with at least the reply message text.

5. The messaging client of claim 4, further comprising:
a threshold-determination routine for dynamically setting the threshold.

6. The messaging client of claim 5, wherein the threshold-determination routine
5 dynamically establishes the threshold by a process comprising determining a number of
characters in a predefined starting portion of the original message text.

7. The messaging client of claim 6, wherein the predefined starting portion of the
original message text is a predefined number of starting words of the original message text.

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8. The messaging client of claim 1, embodied as machine language instructions
recorded on a machine readable medium.

9. The messaging client of claim 8, wherein the machine language instructions
15 define a Short Message Service (SMS) application program.

10. A method comprising:
receiving into a messaging client an original message comprising original message text;
receiving into the messaging client, from a user, reply message text;
20 establishing a reply message comprising the reply message text and only so much of the
original message text as will fit together with at least the reply message text in a maximum
message capacity; and
sending the reply message.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein establishing the reply message comprises inserting after the reply message text only so much of the original message text as will fit together with at least the reply message text in the maximum message capacity.

5 12. The method of claim 10, wherein establishing the reply message comprises:
concatenating at least the reply message text and the original message text; and
thereafter truncating a portion of the original message text so that the reply message does not exceed the maximum message capacity.

10 13. The method of claim 10, wherein a number of characters in the original message text equals the maximum message capacity, and wherein establishing the reply message comprises:
dynamically shifting out the end characters of the original message text as the user inputs the reply message text.

15 14. The method of claim 10, wherein establishing the reply message comprises:
determining if a threshold extent of the original message text fits within the maximum message capacity together with at least the reply message text;
in response to a determination that the threshold extent of the original message text does
20 not fit within the maximum message capacity together with at least the reply message text, omitting the original message text altogether from the reply message.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

dynamically establishing the threshold.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein dynamically establishing the threshold comprises:

5 determining a number of characters in a predefined starting portion of the original message text.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the predefined starting portion of the original message text is a predefined number of starting words of the original message text.

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18. For use in a wireless handheld device capable of communicating text messages, the device comprising:

a transceiver for receiving an original message from a wireless network and transmitting a reply message to the wireless network, wherein the reply message is limited to a maximum capacity;

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user interface for receiving user input defining the reply message text;

a processor;

a data storage medium; and

a set of machine language instructions stored in the data storage medium and executable

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by the processor, (i) to receive the original message comprising original message text, (ii) to receive the user input from the user interface and to establish the reply message comprising the reply message text and only so much of the original message text as will fit together with at least the reply message text in the maximum message capacity, and (iii) to send the reply message.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the reply message is an SMS message.

20. The device of claim 18, wherein the data storage medium comprises an SMS application program.